

Abstract 467

TITLE: Defining Latino HIV Education and Prevention Strategies Through a Community Process

AUTHORS: Campos, L; Lopez, C (California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS)

ISSUE: There is little research about HIV/AIDS and the Latino community, and in particular there is even less research on the largest Latino community in California, the Mexican Americans. As a result, many education and prevention interventions remain the same for non-Latino populations. Barriers to HIV prevention include fear of being rejected by the family; anti immigrant hostility; internal prejudices within the community; and external prejudices which limit outreach to Latinos by outside providers. Many local health departments and community based organizations lack knowledge on how to address these issues using culturally competent and effective prevention strategies.

SETTING: In 1998, one urban and one rural HIV Latino symposium was held to develop education and prevention strategies to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission in the Latino community. Over 100 HIV service providers attended each symposium.

PROJECT: To address this issue, the California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (DHS/OA), initiated these symposiums. After tabulating the results of a statewide survey that asked respondents to rank HIV education and prevention issues in the Latino community, six topics were chosen: migrant issues, women's issues, intracultural diversity, men who have sex with men, youth and substance use. At the symposium, six round tables, one table representing each topic, were addressed by participants from a variety of HIV-related disciplines.

RESULTS: For each round table, participants were asked to identify issue needs, interventions/strategies, barriers, and commendations. Several themes were evident. At a macro level, participants wanted a longer conference to develop skills and share ideas; the development of a Latino research group; and the creation of an advisory board on Latino issues to DHS/OA. More specific recommendations included skills on client empowerment, outreach programs that address outreach to non-clinic sites, program oversight to organizations responsible for Latino services, and technical assistance.

LESSONS LEARNED: Service providers from the Latino community have a strong sense of what is necessary for education and to prevent HIV in the Latino community. Participating service providers were empowered to continue their work, and they encouraged the state to take an active role in initiating their recommendations. The state is now planning a day conference in the year 2000 to address many of the recommendations outlined at the symposiums.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Louise Campos, Chief of the HIV Training Section

Address: Office of AIDS
California Department of Health Services
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320

Telephone: (916) 323-7298

Fax: (916) 323-4642

E-mail: Lcampos@hwl.cahwnet.gov